

THE TOPOSCOPE, A NEW INSTRUMENT TO DETERMINE DURING THE NIGHT THE TRUE POSITION OF A FIRE.—A curious instrument, the invention of M. Schuylgus (the mechanist of the far-famed clock of Strasburg Cathedral), is about to be established on the platform of the same edifice; its object being to determine, during the night, the true position of lighted objects in the distance, false impressions on the subject being often of disastrous effect, as, for example, in the case of conflagration. The apparatus in question, to which the inventor has given the name of *toposcope*, is composed, according to the description, of two graduated circles, with subdivisions marked by an infinity of numbers. These circles, by their rotary movement in inverse directions, furnish a multitude of numerical combinations. A telescope, moving with the upper circle, is fitted to the apparatus; and, on directing this to the place of the disaster, the instrument itself furnishes, in measured numbers, its distance from Strasburg Cathedral.

ST. JAMES'S PALACE.—To increase the accommodation requisite on state occasions, and to complete the suite of apartments appropriated to drawing-rooms and levees, the Queen has been pleased to give instructions to the Office of Works, and workmen are now busily occupied in the embellishment and restoration of two more of the state rooms at this ancient palace. The first is situated at the top of the grand staircase, and was formerly called "Queen Charlotte's Guard-room;" the windows of this apartment look into the Colours-court. The other is a spacious noble saloon, looking into the Ambassadors' Court, and was anciently called the Ball-room. It was most magnificently filled up by George IV., in the style of Louis Quatorze, as a gorgeous Banqueting-room. When finished the state-rooms at St. James's Palace will be the most complete in Europe, and be at all times ready for every ceremonial which the Queen may be called on to give in support of the honour and dignity of the British throne.

GIOVANNI BATTISTA, THE ARCHITECT AND MONK.—The celebrated monk of Mount Carmel, Giovanni Battista, has arrived in Berlin, in order to raise a fund for enlarging his establishment, which is similar to the one on Great St. Bernard. This individual, who was originally an architect, obtained many years ago the permission of the Sultan Mahmud to rebuild the monastery which the Turks had destroyed, for fear it should be turned into a fortress by the French. Having obtained this permission, Battista made twelve journeys throughout Europe, in order to collect the necessary funds for reconstructing the convent. He is now in his fifth year. He intends to add an hospital to the charitable asylum.

GRIMSHY NEW DOCK.—A public meeting of the Grimshy Dock Company was held, pursuant to notice, at the Queen's Head Inn, in Grimshy, on the 29th ult. to receive the plan and report of J. M. Rendel, Esq., the engineer of the intended new railway dock and works at this port, the Right Hon. C. T. D'Eyncourt in the chair. The plan was unanimously adopted by the meeting. To meet the expenditure in completing these works and other purposes, a capital of 320,000*l.* is proposed, and the dock company has agreed to raise the same by shares of 100*l.* each.

TAX ON AIR, LIGHT, AND FREQUENT.—A hundred years hence it will perhaps be scarcely believed, that a government existed in the nineteenth century which prevented, by taxation, the light of heaven from entering our dwellings, and the free air from ventilating and cleansing them; and which also prohibited, by impost, the possession of property from insuring it against destruction by fire.—*Edinburgh Review* for October, 1844.

SOFTENING OF WATER FOR DOMESTIC USE.—It is calculated that the softening of the London water for domestic use by the precipitation of its lime would effect a saving of 200,000*l.* a year in soap alone.

NEW HOSPITAL FOR CONSUMPTION AT BROMFORD.—These works are proceeding rapidly; and it is expected that, in a few months, the western wing will be roofed in, and the interior ready to receive patients.

NEW EXTERIOR CHANON.—This building is now complete, and thrown open to the public. It is lighted by the bade light.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S HOSPITAL, BRISTOL.—The new school-building belonging to this charity is, or rather will be, for it is but just commenced, another edifice somewhat similar to the Bristol Guildhall in regard to its style of architecture, but of very different character, far less ornate—indeed, rather plain—but very far more extensive, since the total length of its front will be 400 feet. Its site is a sloping field of about four acres, on the side of Brandon-hill, between Bristol and Clifton; and the building will stand about twenty-eight feet above the level of the road, raised upon a terrace extending along the main front, and to which there will be an ascent by a flight of fifty steps in the centre. The architects employed are Messrs. Foster and Son, of Bristol.—*Companion to the Almanack.*

THE CARTOONS IN DANGER.—A correspondent of the *Times* sounds a note of warning respecting the risk to which the cartoons are exposed, which cannot be too soon attended to. The buildings in which such treasures of art are preserved should be placed beyond the chance or the possibility of fire.—"Some days since, a person passing through the gallery in which they are placed observed a dense smoke to pervade the apartment, proceeding apparently from the wainscotted partition behind the cartoons. An alarm was given, the wainscot was torn down, and it was discovered that a beam in the wall, communicating with the flue of a copper chimney, was, if not in a state of flame, so much ignited as to have endangered the Palace, if it had not been discovered in that opportune manner.

CONSTRUCTION OF ICE-HOUSES.—Ice has become a great article of export in America. 60,000 tons are annually sent from Boston to southern parts, the East and West Indies, &c. The ice-houses near the lakes and ponds are immense wooden buildings, holding 10,000 to 20,000 tons each; some of them, indeed, cover half an acre of ground. They are built with double walls—that is, with an inner wall round, two feet from the outer one; and the space between is filled with sawdust—a non-conductor, making a solid wall, impervious to heat and air, and of 10 feet in thickness.—*Madras Athenaeum.*

NEW SCHOOLS AT DUKINFIELD.—These schools are rapidly approaching towards a state of completion. The style of architecture chosen by the architect, Mr. Shillard, of Manchester, is the Tudor English. The schools are being built partly from funds granted by the National Society and the Board of Privy Council, and partly by donations raised by the late incumbent, the Rev. Joseph Taylor. They are calculated to contain upwards of 600 children, and there is a house erected for the master and mistress.

NEW THEATRE AT MANCHESTER.—The corner stone of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, was laid on Monday last, by Mr. John Knowles, the proprietor, and holder of the letters patent.

TENDERS.

TENDERS delivered Dec. 7, 1844, for building a Public-house, to be called the Three Tuns, in New-street, Fetter-lane, for Messrs. Meux and Co., brewers. The quantities were delivered to each contractor.—Samuel Beazley, Esq., Architect.

Mr. Nicholls	£1,687
Mr. Brown	1,650
Mr. Winland	1,541
Mr. Edwin	1,520
Mr. Reynolds	1,504
Mr. Williams	1,497
Mr. Gerry	1,439
Mr. Soden	1,410
Mr. Parkyn	1,387
Mr. Bodger	1,284

The above were not opened in the contractors' presence; and Mr. Bodger's tender was accepted.

TENDERS delivered Dec. 6, 1844, for the erection of Dwelling-houses, situated at Star-corner, Bermondsey, for G. Drew, Esq.—G. Porter, Esq., Architect.

Messrs. Locke and Nesham	£3,539
Mr. Willson	3,494
Mr. Winland	2,486
Mr. Paul	3,399
Messrs. R. and D. Young	3,396
Mr. Gerry	3,386
Mr. Jay	3,312

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For 1,200 Tons of Wrought-iron Rails.—George King, 62, Moorgate-street. Dec. 16.

For Building the proposed Lock-up Cells and Turnkey's Residence, at Wooden Box, Hartshorn, Derbyshire.—John Mason, County Surveyor; or Mr. Dewes, Solicitor, Ashby-de-la-Zouch. December 17.

For the performance of the following works in Harwich Harbour and the neighbouring Coast from January 1, 1845, to December 31, 1847. Carpenters, Masons, Bricklayers, Plasterers, Slaters, Plumbers, Painters, Glaziers, and Smiths.—The Commanding Royal Engineer, Harwich. December 17. For the performance of the like works, with the addition of Pavions, and for the like period, in the Ipswich Station.—Same address and date as above.

For the supply of about 20,000 one year old Wood, to be Ash, Hazel, Oak, or Hornbeam.—Messrs. Dawson and Son, 74, Cannon-street.

For performing the Carpenter's, Bricklayer's, Plumber's, Painter's, Glazier's, and Slaters' Works at the St. Marylebone Workhouse for the year ensuing.—Thomas Thorne, at the Workhouse. Dec. 18.

For the several works required in the erection and completion of two Wings to the New Gail, Leeds; Residence for Schoolmasters and Matrons; Entrance Building and Chapel; Out Offices; and Court Walls.—Messrs. Parkin and Backhouse, Architects, 10, Albion-street, Leeds. Dec. 18.

For the erection of a Church at Eccleshill, near Bradford, Yorkshire.—Mr. Rawthorne, Architect, North-parade, Bradford. Dec. 19.

For the construction of Locomotive Engines and Tenders for the Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale Railway.—Mr. C. E. Cawley, Engineer, Railway Office, Bury.—December 21.

For the supply of First, Second, and Third-class Carriages to the Manchester, Bury, and Rossendale Railway.—James Smithells, Secretary, Railway Office, Bury.—December 21.

For the supply of 6,000 tons of Iron Rails, each rail to be 16 feet in length, and weighing 65 lb. per yard.—H. Parker, Secretary to the Great North of England Railway Company, Darlington. Dec. 23.

For making a Sewer in the Town of Cambridge, to be cylindrical and 2 feet diameter in the clear, length about 365 yards, average depth about 9 feet.—Frederick Randall, Clerk to the Commissioners, Cambridge. Dec. 26.

For the execution of Works necessary for the completion of the whole of the Railway from Shoreham to Chichester, being a distance of about 22½ miles.—Frederick Otley, Secretary, Brighton and Chichester Railway Office, 4, Dean-street, Tinsley-street. December 31.

For the erection of an Organ in the City Hall of Glasgow, not to exceed 1,500*l.*—Mr. G. W. Muir, Glasgow. January 1.

For Four Locomotive Engines and Tenders.—George King, 62, Moorgate-street. January 8.

For a Survey Plan and Valuation of the Township of Kimberworth, in Rotherham Yorkshire.—Mr. George Taylor or Mr. Richard Rhodes, Overseers of the Poor. January 8.

For completing the Railway from Bishopstoke to Salisbury.—Alfred Morgan, Secretary, Nine Elms Station, Vauxhall. January 10.

For the supply of 11,000 feet of nine-inch cast-iron Pipes for a new line of Aqueduct to be laid in the Island of Malta.—Mr. Casolani, Collector of Land Revenue, Office of Land Revenue and Public Works, Valletta, Malta. March 31, 1845.

COMPETITIONS.

THE Committee of the Association recently formed in the Metropolis for the Construction of Bath and Wash-houses for the Labouring Classes, are desirous of obtaining Plans and Estimates for the Erection and Fitting-up of the First Establishment. The general basis of the plan can be seen at the Office, No. 3, Crosby-square. The author of the plan considered the best by the Committee will be selected to execute the work.

Plans for an Agricultural College to be erected at Cirencester, to accommodate 200 pupils and 6 tutors. The style is left to the taste of the architect. A Premium of 10 Guineas to the author of the most approved plan.—Robert J. Brown, Esq., Hon. Sec. Cirencester. January 1.

Plans and estimates are required for a Pauper Lunatic Asylum for the County of Somerset: the building to accommodate 300 patients, and to contain two stories. The Committee of Visiting Magistrates wish it to be of a plain, cheerful character, but will not further fetter the architect by suggesting any particular arrangement as to the interior, its ventilation, warming, or otherwise. The ground selected contains 36 acres.—The Clerk of the Peace, Taunton. A Premium of 100*l.* will be adjudged for the best plan, and 50*l.* for the next best.